

[REDACTED] - Falmouth, MA 02541

September 15, 2001

Honorable William D. Delahunt
1317 Longworth
Washington, D.C. 20515

RECEIVED

SEP 21 2001

Re: Reaction to recent tragedy

William D. Delahunt, M.C.

Dear Mr. Delahunt,

In light of the recent tragedy, I would like to go on the record as a citizen who is worried about the loss of civil liberties and privacy in the effort to contain terrorism. I also believe that we cannot let this challenge go unanswered. I trust you, and our other leaders, to take your time at resolving this crisis and to not overreact, or we will simply play into the hands of our enemies. I firmly believe that it is necessary for us to accept more risk in order to preserve our free and open society.

I wish to express my support for the CIA and the FBI. Somewhere in all the news reporting, I heard a call to fire the leadership in our premier intelligence organizations. Even if it is found that there was negligence on the part of the CIA and FBI, it will serve no purpose to decimate the leadership and demoralize the organization at this hour of our greatest need. No matter how large our armed forces, they are useless without excellent intelligence.

As a civil service employee, I feel that our government has been given the short shrift and disrespect for too long now. It has been asked to do too much with too little, inadequate funding of the various bureaus has persisted long enough. I am tired of hearing how our government should be shrunk while at the same time protecting its citizens from every hazard imaginable from defective baby carriages to hijacked airliners. Our leadership has failed miserably in making it clear to the public that less government means... less government. Poorly maintained national parks. Army privates on food stamps. Ill conceived ineffective environmental regulations. Less free publically available information.

We must resist, at all costs, the tendency to fall back onto finger pointing and instead forgive the many mistakes we will find and make in the coming years and keep the end goal in sight, to end terrorism as a viable political tool.

Sincerely,

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]